

Senate Joint Resolution No. 4—Committee on
Legislative Operations and Elections

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to fund fully
and protect the future of the Medicare program.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

This resolution sets forth the financial difficulties that the Medicare system is currently facing because of the way it is funded, including the expected depletion of the trust fund which pays for hospital and nursing home care by 2019, and urges Congress to fund fully and protect the future of the Medicare program.

WHEREAS, Since its creation in 1965, the Medicare program has provided health insurance to persons 65 years of age or older and certain persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, More than 43 million people are currently covered by the Medicare program; and

WHEREAS, The financial resources of the Medicare program are expected to come under greater pressure as the estimated 78 million people between the ages of 45 and 64, commonly known as the "Baby Boomers," begin to draw benefits in the next few years; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is currently funded by payroll taxes, general taxes, Medicare premiums and copayments; and

WHEREAS, The point at which Medicare begins to pay out more in benefits than it collects in payroll taxes is expected to be reached this year; and

WHEREAS, The reserves in the Medicare trust fund which pay for hospital and nursing home care are expected to be depleted by 2019; and

WHEREAS, If Medicare becomes bankrupt, providing for the needs of persons left without health care would place an undue burden on the State of Nevada; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 75th Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to address the depletion of Medicare resources and to fund fully and protect the future of the Medicare program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further



RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

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